

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claim 1 and cancel claim 15. No new matter is added. Accordingly, claims 1-14 and 16 are all the claims currently pending in the Application. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-14 and 16 are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

I. Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,032,208 to Nixon et al. (hereinafter “Nixon”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because the reference fails to describe each and every element as set forth in the claims, either expressly or inherently.

By this Amendment, Applicants amend independent claim 1 based on features previously presented in claim 15. Specifically, the presence of at least one of each functional element is now required so that claim 1 now recites

wherein the automatically creating comprises:

analyzing the selected type of the at least one process element to determine corresponding functional elements;

retrieving the determined functional elements comprising at least one signaling functional element, at least one archive data functional element and at least one picture functional element, that are assigned to the analyzed selected type of the at least one process element; and

automatically allocating the retrieved functional elements to the technology module (emphasis added).

With respect to previously presented claim 15, the Examiner contends that Nixon teaches “analyzing the selected type of the at least one process element to determine corresponding

functional elements,” as now recited in claim 1, citing Nixon at col. 9, lines 41-46. *See* page 7 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner’s interpretation of the Nixon reference.

The cited paragraph of Nixon refers to a “process control environment 100 [and] a template generator 124.” *See* col. 9, lines 38-39. In particular, the paragraph describes that “[a] control template is defined as the grouping of attribute functions that are used to control a process. However, Applicants respectfully submit that defining a control template as a grouping of attributes is clearly different from analyzing a selected type of a process element to determine corresponding functional elements, as recited in claim 1.

On the other hand, the Examiner refers to FIG. 12, alleging that FIG. 12 depicts the automatic creation of a technology module. *See* Response to Arguments at page 8 of the Office Action. In particular, the Examiner contends that Nixon discloses the automatic creation of the technology module in step 1128 of FIG. 12 after selecting a type, such as for example an alleged type “ain” or “di”. *See* page 8 of the Office Action.

FIG. 12 “illustrates an object-oriented method for installing a process I/O attribute block into a PIO device through the operation of the control subsystem.” *See* col. 25, lines 10-13. After selecting block definition attribute “ain,” for example, an input attribute block 1132 is created. However, the described process clearly does not include a process step of automatically analyzing the attribute type and, as a result of such an analysis, creating of the attribute block in the meaning of claim 1. Instead, FIG. 12 merely shows that after their creation “[a]ttributes of

the specified object [can be] set by a user through the operation of an editor 1130.” *See* col. 25, lines 23-28.

Even assuming, *arguendo*, that selecting an attribute in step 1128 of FIG. 12 would somehow result in an automatic analysis of selected block definition attributes, which would further result in a creation of the attribute block 1132, Nixon does not disclose or suggest that such an alleged automatic creation includes the step of “retrieving the determined functional elements comprising at least one signaling functional element, at least one archive data functional element and at least one picture functional element, that are assigned to the analyzed selected type of the at least one process element,” as recited in claim 1.

The Examiner contends that Nixon teaches these individual features, citing Nixon at col. 7, lines 47-62, col. 3, lines 31-37 and col. 9, lines 41-46. *See* page 7 of the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited paragraphs seem to be completely unrelated to each other and in particular to the steps described in FIG. 12. At col. 7, lines 47-62, for example, Nixon teaches a local controller 4. The “[l]ocal controller 4 includes a central processing unit . . . which provides control signals to configure the central processing unit.” *See* col. 7, lines 47-52. However, merely providing control signals from a local controller to a central processing unit is clearly different from “retrieving the determined functional elements comprising at least one signaling functional element,” as recited in claim 1. Although it might be generally true that the signaling functional element “can acquire, *e.g.*, information on motor overheating” (acquire information from a local controller), there is no element retrieved in the

process described in FIG. 12 of Nixon, which could be associated with the above-described control signals.

With respect to the at least one archive data functional element, the Examiner refers to col. 3, lines 31-37. *See* page 7 of the Office Action. In the cited paragraph, Nixon merely teaches that “function blocks with predefined templates [can be] stored in the library.” *See* col. 3, lines 33-34. However, storing predefined templates in a library is clearly not equivalent to retrieving functional elements comprising at least one archive data functional element in a process of automatically creating a technology module.

Finally, even if one would assume that elements exist in Nixon which could correspond to a signaling functional element, an archive data functional element and a picture functional element, as recited in claim 1, nowhere in Nixon it is required that at least one of each of these elements is allocated to a process I/O attribute block of a PIO device, the creation of which corresponds to the creation of a technology module according to claim 1.

In short, there is no disclosure in Nixon of “automatically creating [a technology module by] analyzing [a] selected type of . . . at least one process element to determine corresponding functional elements [and] retrieving the determined functional elements comprising at least one signaling functional element, at least one archive data functional element and at least one picture functional element, that are assigned to the analyzed selected type of the at least one process element,” as recited in claim 1.

As a result, Nixon does not disclose or suggest each and every element as set forth in the claims, either expressly or inherently. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

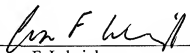
Claims 2-14 and 16 depend from claim 1 and are patentable at least by virtue of their dependencies.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


George F. Lehnigk
Registration No. 36,359

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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